



Members Update for April 8th, 2022

OSBCU Working Conditions Survey – Our provincial team at OSBCU have developed a working conditions survey that they are encouraging all members to complete by April 14th at the latest. I encourage you to take the time (about 5 minutes) to complete the survey which will help OSBCU create proposals and ideas for bargaining items that can benefit all our members across the province. You can find the survey by clicking the link below.

<https://survey-sondage.cupe.ca/index.php/441644?lang=en>

Election Committee – **We need 3 members to help organize and oversee our June elections.** These 3 members cannot run for any positions in the election. Your roles will be to contact nominees to determine if they accept or decline their nominations, scrutinize election campaign materials and handle any election day issues from members, along with any other questions or concerns that come up during the election process. If you are interested in helping the Local by serving on the Election Committee, please email the office at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca and let Janna know. It would be good if we had the Election Committee in place before the April Membership Meeting so they can handle the nomination process taking place in May, so get your names in if you want to be considered for the Committee!

Classroom Conditions - If you're having issue with classrooms, washrooms, offices, etc left in terrible conditions on a regular basis, please email your school, classroom number and a few pictures of the classroom to classroomconditions@gmail.com and we'll make sure they get passed along to senior managers.

Letters to the future Premier – I want to thank everyone that took the time to sign the letters to the future Premier (yes, the provincial election is coming up in June!) and walked away with one of our new pens that doubles as a touch screen finger as well! If you weren't visited by one of our mobilizers or didn't have the opportunity to sign the letter, please email the office at cupelocal4153@bellnet.ca and let them know your name, the school you're at and what shift you're working. If you're a casual and bouncing around locations from day to day, you can also stop by the office and sign one – just call ahead and make sure Janna will be there to let you in.

EasyConnect – Well, this wasn't a stellar week for EasyConnect (aka DisConnect or NOTsoEasyConnect) - we had some issues with members not being able to book off on Tuesday, then the update for the Job Board didn't go as planned. Needless to say, this entire EasyConnect system is a management rights issue – they chose it, they administer it. We don't have a say in what software they use to do certain things – we do advocate on our members behalf and try to make the use of the software as easy and seamless as possible but that hasn't happened since day one with this system. We will continue to bring issues to the attention of the employer with how it works and functions as members let us know.

I've booked vacation – now what?! - Summer holidays are quickly approaching – not quite quick enough for some of us though. LOL. Lots of different answers around booking holidays so here's what our members are responsible for:

CUPE staff are to book their holidays through the web portal and that's where their responsibilities end. Supervisors approve the holidays and then transfer the absence to EasyConnect so it can be filled. Anyone told any different than that should politely refer the issue to Bob Avery or myself.

Flamborough & Glanbrook Residents – Interested in electing someone other than the current MPP Donna Skelly in the Flamborough / Glanbrook riding? Interested in supporting a candidate who accurately understands the importance of properly funded Education in Ontario? Want to get involved and volunteer by helping out in a campaign? You can get involved by signing up to help elect Allison Cillis by clicking below!

<https://volunteer.ontariondp.ca/FLG/rsvp/37b0669c-31f8-4f42-8943-f4e801b76261/>

If you are not aware, Allison Cillis is a local OSSTF member taking on PC Donna Skelly in the Hamilton riding of Flamborough-Glanbrook. The NDP came in a close second to the PCs in 2018. OSSTF has endorsed Allison in this riding as she has the best shot in unseating Skelly on June 2.

Parent Consultation Meeting – I'm happy to see that the OSBCU is holding an evening meeting to consult with parents, grandparents and caregivers of students across Ontario. Wednesday, April 20th from 7-9pm is the date and time and OSBCU is asking if you can share the link to 5 of your friends and family that have connections to the Education system in Ontario. At the end of the day, we need to have the support of parents and caregivers on our side as we prepare to bargain for proper Education funding in Ontario. We need their support and they need to feel like we aren't just employees but actually members of the community that have had or do have kids or grandkids that attend the schools we work in. We do care about how the schools function. We do care about how money is spent. We do care about the safety, security and comfort of every visitor that comes into our schools. The link you need to follow to sign up for the event is listed here : <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-CqrDovHdxmdvuBJ8TN133kRCFx0ACb?fbclid=IwAR21CBP1SyqAK92zcuD1MMMyuPTs5AOUFQptZ550zABI6o94xec9m8VwzBGs>

Next week is a short week with Good Friday starting off a 4 day weekend for all of us. I can't promise, but will try to get some sort of an update out on Thursday, but it's a busy week already and I'm hoping (fingers crossed) that it's a relatively quiet week for any major issues. If I don't see or hear from you before next weekend, please enjoy the down time with your families and friends and keep your health and safety in mind for any large gatherings as we all know Covid numbers, hospitalizations and ICU admissions are all rising again and NOBODY wants to go back to any real restrictions.

For all those coming to the social at EndZone tomorrow night – thanks for signing up and coming to hang out with other members and seeing some familiar faces again! I'm sure we all need this time just among ourselves! First one to mention "I just have a quick question about union stuff....." has to buy everyone a shot or a plate of fries! LOL

Cheers,

Blake